



## A One-of-a-Kind Watering Bottle

Turn an ordinary squeeze bottle into a one-of-a-kind watering tool, then talk about the design and put it to use.

### Helps Your Child Grow



#### Emergent Literacy

Following the marks your child makes and asking curious questions encourages them to give meaning to a drawing and describe an idea.

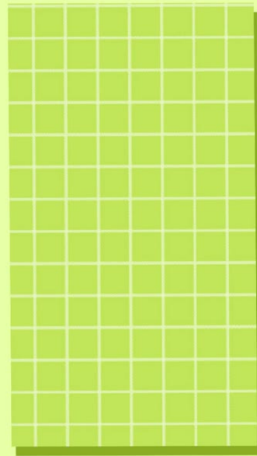


#### Fine Motor

Grasping, carrying, and squeezing the watering bottle gives your child repeated practice controlling the hand and using force with a small tool.



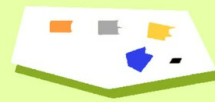
## What You'll Need



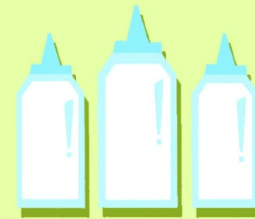
Picnic blanket



Paintbrush



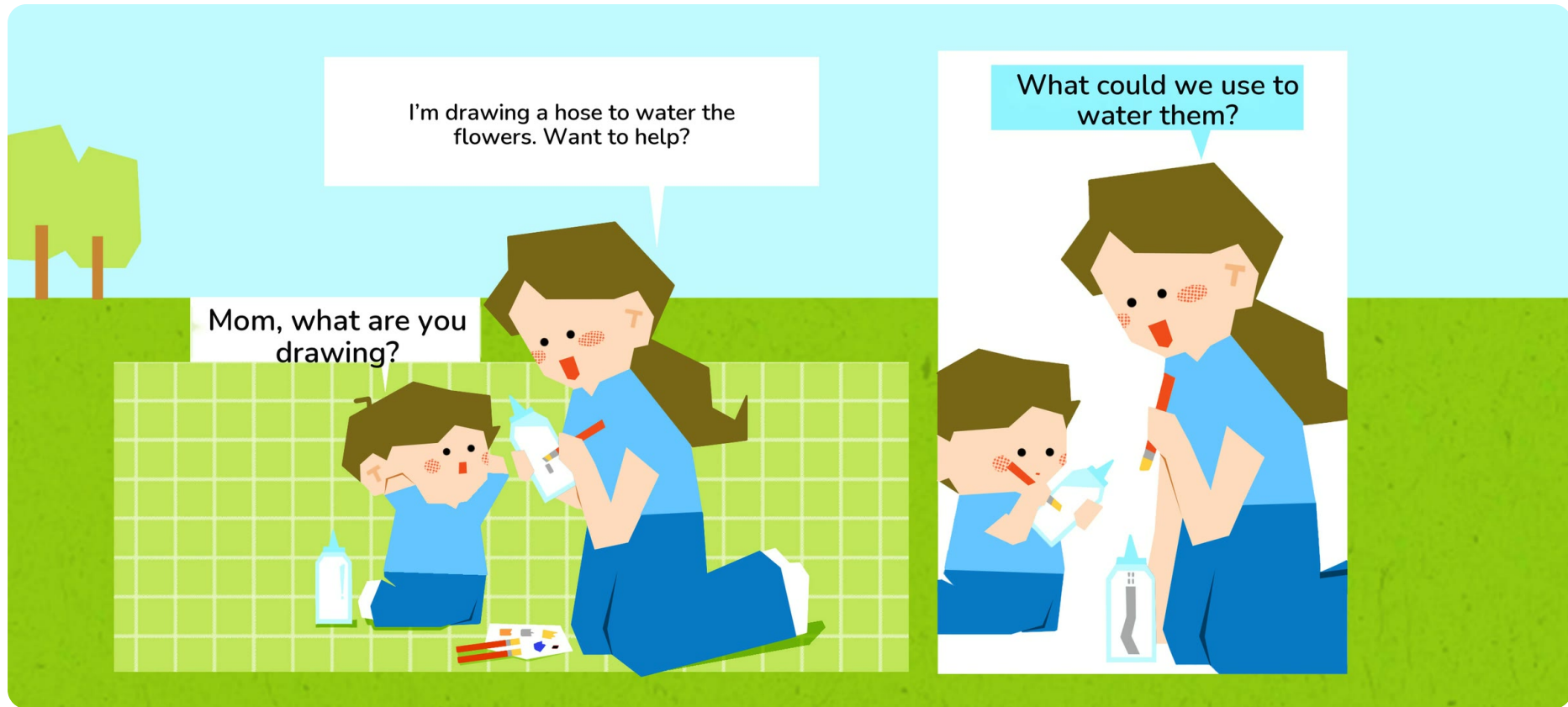
Paint



Bottle filled with water

## What You'll Need

1. Picnic mat
2. water bottle filled in advance, preferably with a squeeze cap
3. brushes
4. washable paint or washable markers



## Give the Bottle a New Look

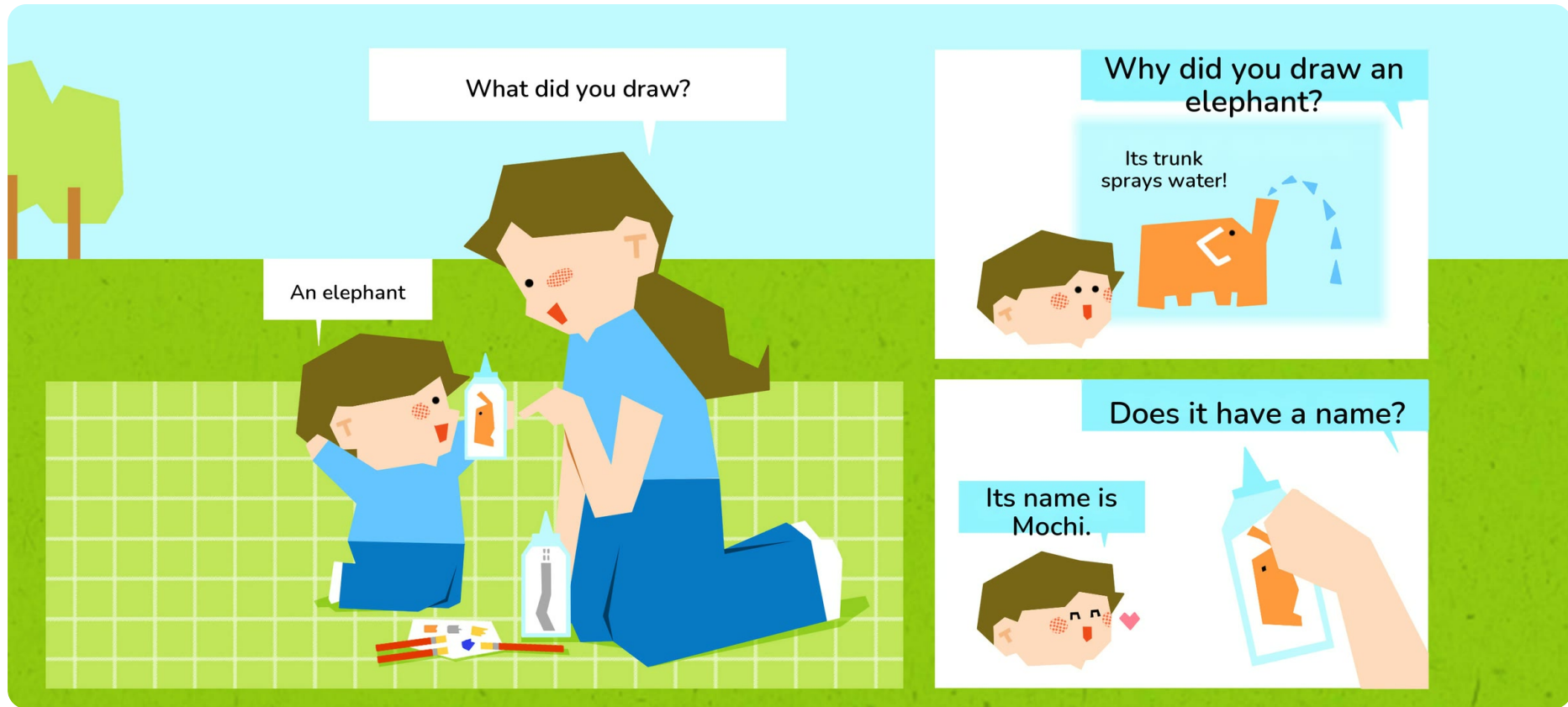
Before going outdoors to water plants, give an ordinary squeeze bottle a new look. Draw a few marks on it to attract your child's attention, then invite them to add their own pictures and patterns - even if the result is hard to recognize.

### Observations

- Uses lines and marks to draw a little elephant
- Joins in when they see you drawing

### Tips

- Begin drawing with an expressive face or playful narration. Seeing you absorbed in the process can make your child curious enough to join.
- If your child needs an idea, follow the clue of spraying water. What else sprays, rains, or bubbles? Add one of those ideas to the bottle.
- At two and a half, a drawing does not need to look realistic. What matters is using marks to express an idea and trying to describe it.



## Talk About the Drawing

When the drawing is finished, let your child introduce the design. Begin with the part they point to or mention, then follow their imagination with one curious question at a time.

### Observations

- Briefly describes what they drew, such as “I drew an elephant”
- Draws an elephant on the bottle to represent spraying water

### Tips

- Turning the watering can into an elephant expresses your child’s creative idea and practices making imaginative connections.
- Let your child speak first. Notice where they point and what interests them most, then ask a related question.
- Build on an answer with one or two questions, such as “Where is the elephant’s trunk?” This helps your child add details to the idea.



## Squeeze and Water

If your child wants to keep drawing, decorate another bottle. Then squeeze the finished watering bottle so the “elephant trunk” sprays water onto nearby plants.

### Observations

- Squeezes the bottle to make water come out
- Shows pride while watering with the bottle they designed

### Tips

- Compare the soil together. Which areas look lighter and drier, and which look darker and damp? Use the differences to decide where more water is needed.
- Using a tool they decorated can strengthen your child’s sense of “I made this” and motivate them to carry and use it with pride.
- When you praise your child, name the specific action or help you noticed.